



House of Representatives

File No. 848

General Assembly

January Session, 2001

(Reprint of File No. 661)

Substitute House Bill No. 6867
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 31, 2001

AN ACT CONCERNING ONE-STOP CENTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) In addition to the required partners identified in section
2 121(b)(1) of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-220,
3 as from time to time amended, and subject to the approval of the
4 regional workforce development board and the chief elected officials
5 for the local area, each one-stop center shall include a local community
6 action agency, as defined in section 17b-885 of the general statutes, and
7 an opportunities industrialization center as one-stop partners and shall
8 provide eligible individuals utilizing the one-stop center with access to
9 programs and activities carried out by such community action agency
10 and opportunities industrialization center. For purposes of this
11 subsection, "local area" refers to an area designated as such pursuant to
12 Section 116 of the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, P.L. 105-
13 220, as from time to time amended.

14 (b) At least one representative from the Department of Social
15 Services shall be available on-site at each one-stop center to provide

16 eligible individuals utilizing the one-stop center with information or
17 assistance concerning any service or program administered by the
18 department.

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Minimal Cost

Affected Agencies: Departments of Social Services and Labor

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

The bill requires each one-stop center to include a local community action agency and opportunities industrialization centers as partners. The bill further stipulates that the one-stop centers must provide eligible individuals with access to programs and activities carried out by community action agencies and the opportunities industrialization centers.

There may be a minimal cost for the one-stop centers associated with housing these agencies within the one-stop centers. This minimal cost cannot be determined at this time.

This bill also requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to have at least one representative at each one-stop center in the state. DSS regional offices currently work closely with all one-stop centers and have personnel on site at most centers already. To the extent that DSS will be required to have staff at sites that are not currently fully covered, an additional administrative cost will be incurred. It is expected that this cost can be covered within the anticipated budgetary resources.

House “A” made technical clarifications that had no associated fiscal impact.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

sHB 6867 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING ONE-STOP CENTERS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires each one-stop job center to include a local community action agency and an opportunities industrialization center as one-stop partners, subject to the approval of the regional workforce development board (RWDB) and the local area's chief elected officials. "Local areas" are the local workforce investment areas designated under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The bill requires the one-stop center to give eligible people using the center access to these entities' programs and activities. These new partners are in addition to the current federally required partners.

The bill also requires at least one Department of Social Services representative onsite at each one-stop center to give people using the center information or assistance about the department's services and programs.

*House Amendment "A" adds the reference to the federal law in regard to "local areas" and makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND***One-Stop Centers***

Connecticut created the statewide system of one-stop job centers (called "Connecticut Works Centers") in 1994 to offer workers, students, and employers comprehensive workforce development assistance. The centers offer job seekers (including people transitioning from welfare to work under the state's Jobs First program) counseling, skills training, and job search assistance. They also provide businesses with recruiting services, job training for their employees, and related support.

The 1998 federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) (PL 105-220, 29 U.S.C. § 2801 *et seq.*), which restructured federal workforce development policy and provided funding for more coordination of various workforce-related programs, requires each local workforce investment area as designated by the governor (29 U.S.C. § 2831) to have a one-stop center, which can be supplemented by a network of affiliated sites. RWDBs (regional workforce investment boards under WIA) select one-stop operators through a competitive process or designate a consortium to administer them.

Federal law requires certain federally funded programs to participate as partners in the one-stop centers but allows states to add others. The required partners include such entities as WIA-authorized job training services, vocational rehabilitation programs, adult education and literacy programs, welfare-to-work programs, senior community service employment programs, vocational education programs, and state unemployment compensation programs (29 U.S.C. § 2841 (b) and 20 C.F.R. § 662.200).

Community Action Agency

A community action agency is a local public or private nonprofit entity authorized to receive state and federal funds (including Community Services block grants) to provide a range of services that help poor people. The agencies plan, coordinate, and administer programs such as job training, counseling, energy and rental assistance for the poor, and meals on wheels for the elderly.

Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OICs)

OICs are private, nonprofit entities that provide job training and related services or job opportunity programs for economically disadvantaged, unemployed, and underemployed people.

Legislative History

On May 11, the House referred the bill (File 661) to the Labor and Public Employees Committee, which favorably reported it unchanged on May 17. On May 21, the House referred it to the Planning and Development Committee, which also favorably reported it unchanged on May 22.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Workforce Development

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 16 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 51 Nay 0

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 10 Nay 3

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 17 Nay 0